

# **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources**

## **“THE APR PROGRAM - LOOKING FORWARD”**

### **LISTENING SESSIONS 2018**

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**Tuesday, February 13, 2018 - 5:30PM to 7:00PM:**

The Red Barn at Hampshire College, 893 West Street, Amherst (*snow date, 3/6*)

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018 - 5:30PM to 7:00PM:**

Middleborough Public Library, 102 North Main Street, Middleborough

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 - 5:30PM to 8:00PM:**

MassDEP Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester  
*between Reed Machinery and Abby Kelly High School*



As the [Agricultural Preservation Restriction \(APR\) Program](#) celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is hosting a series of three (3) listening sessions to hear from the public about their ideas for the future of farmland protection in Massachusetts. These sessions are intended to be opportunities for recommendations and policy considerations for the APR program to meet the evolving needs of farming in Massachusetts and to address the challenges that can result from placing agricultural land under a restriction for posterity.

The Amherst and Middleborough sessions will have a presentation followed by a comment period. The Worcester session will have a presentation with small facilitated discussion groups afterwards. Pre-registration is not required for any session but is recommended for the Worcester meeting by emailing [Dorothy.Du@state.ma.us](mailto:Dorothy.Du@state.ma.us).

Meetings will be about the APR program in general, but added emphasis will be placed on the following topics:

- Transfers of APRs: e.g. the [Right Of First Refusal](#) and [Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value](#);
- Approvals: e.g. Renewable Energy, Composting, [Dwellings](#), Labor Housing;
- [Special Permits](#)/ Non-Agricultural Uses: e.g. Weddings, Events, Races; and
- Acquisitions: e.g. process.

Written comments may be [submitted here](#) through March 31, 2018 or emailed to [gerard.kennedy@state.ma.us](mailto:gerard.kennedy@state.ma.us)

Locations are accessible to people with disabilities. MDAR provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact Alisha Bouchard by phone (617) 626-1703 or by email [Alisha.Bouchard@state.ma.us](mailto:Alisha.Bouchard@state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting